

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 818

By Miller L

A RESOLUTION designating February 1, 2006, as "Girls and Women in Sports Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly recognizes the importance of sports involvement for girls and young women in developing positive self-esteem, physical health, and leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of University Women, Girl Scouts of the USA, Girls Incorporated, the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, the National Women's Law Center, the Women's Sports Foundation, and the YWCA USA join together to celebrate the 20th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day in Washington, D.C., and communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, this day exists to acknowledge the past and recognize current sports achievements, the positive influence of sports participation, and the continuing struggle for equality and access for women in sports; and

WHEREAS, National Girls and Women in Sports Day began in 1987 as a day to remember Olympic volleyball player, Flo Hyman, for her athletic achievements and her commitment to ensure equality for women's sports; and

WHEREAS, the history of girls and women in sports is rich and long, yet there has been little national recognition of the significance of girls and women's athletic achievements; and

WHEREAS, girls' and women's athletics, at all levels, is one of the most effective avenues available through which girls and women in the United States may develop self-discipline, initiative, confidence, and leadership skills regardless of background; and

WHEREAS, the bonds built between girls and women through athletics help to break down the social barriers of racism and prejudice, and the communication and cooperation skills learned play a key role in the athlete's contributions at home, at work, and to society; and

WHEREAS, a need for increased opportunities exists for girls to participate in and pursue physical activity at the community and scholastic level to increase their health and well-being on a daily basis so that they are able to develop lifelong fitness habits at an early age; and

WHEREAS, the theme of this year's National Girls and Women in Sports Day is "Count Me In"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate February 1, 2006, as "National Girls and Women in Sports Day" in Tennessee and call upon the citizens of this State to recognize the important role athletics play in the development of young women throughout the country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.